

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
 Las Conchas Wildfires - Removal Polrep



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 Region VI**

Subject: **POLREP #3**
 Final Polrep
 Las Conchas Wildfires

Santa Fe, NM
Latitude: 35.5705630 Longitude: -106.0873716

To: Ragan Broyles, Superfund Division
 Dana Tulis, U.S. EPA HQ
 Art Volmer, NM

From: Warren Zehner, OSC

Date: 7/5/2011

Reporting Period:

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	06BJ	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	6/27/2011	Start Date:	6/27/2011
Demob Date:	7/6/2011	Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response.

1.1.2 Site Description

Concerns about the impact of Las Conchas Wildfire impacting the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and potential releases of radioactive waste and materials into surrounding communities. The cause of the fire is still being investigated. The fire started south west of LANL and traveled in a direction that threatened LANL. LANL was closed to all but essential personnel. The city of Los Alamos was evacuated. Fire is currently largest in NM history, approximately 124,000 acres involved.

1.1.2.1 Location

The location is the area surrounding the LANL. That includes several tribal lands, the cities of Los Alamos and White Rock, National Forests and Monuments.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The POTENTIAL threat is from radioactive material that could be released due to the impact of wildfires. There are legacy sites within LANL where soil is contaminated with radioactive isotopes. A firestorm within the wildfire could entrain the contamination and move it offsite. A wildfire without the firestorm has a lesser potential for lifting the contamination, not enough energy.

Within LANL property is a well known area (Area G) that is the location of containerized radioactive waste. This area is maintained and operated by LANL. Engineering controls are in place to prevent fire effecting the stored wastes including specially designed casks, shields, 'pigs', solidification, as well as fire breaks.

Another potential threat is from the facilities on LANL that use radioactive materials. Since the control of these materials is structured, the potential threat from these facilities is less.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

The fire is being contained and is presenting a much lower threat to LANL. The 'black areas' and fire breaks that have been created since the Cerro Grande fire from 11 years ago have been effective in protecting the LANL property. Although fire is still active in the general area, the LANL and Los Alamos areas were deemed to no longer be at risk from the fire, the mandatory evacuation order of Los Alamos was lifted on 07/03. Re-populating residents were advised that heavy smoke and active fires were still in the area and to take precautions due to projected poor air quality for several more days.

Six rounds of air samples for a total of 56 individual samples were collected from private, public and tribal lands during the response. Analytical results will be received within days.

ASPECT completed four monitoring missions around the perimeter of the fire, which included several potentially impacted cities and tribal lands no radiation levels significantly above the background levels were detected.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

EPA technical assistance contractor (START) and EPA's Radiological Emergency Response Team from the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air - Las Vegas (ORIA-LV) completed final round of air sampling on 07/04. All samplers were collected. RERT personnel will be demobilizing from the Site on 07/05.

EPA sampling information will be made publically available on the New Mexico Environmental Department website at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us> .

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Complete QA/QC review of data as it comes available. Post final data summary

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

None

2.3 Logistics Section

2.4 Finance Section

2.5 Safety Officer

2.6 Liaison Officer

2.7 Information Officer

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

3.2 Cooperating and Assisting Agencies

4. Personnel On Site

EPA Resources: 1 Federal On-Scene Coordinators.
1 RERT On-Site Commander from ORIA-LV
6 members of the EPA RERT
1 EPA PIO (demobed 07/02)
1 EPA ASPECT plane and crew (demobed 07/02)
EPA ASPECT Support Team Members (demobing 07/03)
1 EPA Data Manager
4 START contractor personnel

5. Definition of Terms

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/reports

6.2 Reporting Schedule

7. Situational Reference Materials